

Hillside 1999

8. Hunting

Hunting is available for the following game mammals: white-tailed deer, feral hog, gray and fox squirrels, raccoon, opossum, and swamp and eastern cottontail rabbits. A valid permit holder may also take furbearers in season incidental to other refuge hunts with weapons legal for that hunt. These include fox, bobcat, coyote, beaver, nutria, mink, skunk, and muskrat. Below are partial visitation and harvest data taken from self-clearing hunter information cards. Data are incomplete due to less than total compliance.

Waterfowl hunting was open throughout the month of January. Participation was nearly six times that of last January's waterfowl hunt due to both the season being extended until the 31st and a 1998 Field and Stream article featuring the refuge. A total of 283 hunter visits were reported with 577 ducks harvested. Species harvested included mallard, gadwall, wood duck, green-winged teal, American wigeon, northern pintail, hooded merganser, redhead, canvasback, and northern shoveler.

Archery season for deer was open January 1-31. Eighty-two hunter visits were reported with two does and one eight point buck harvested.

Squirrel and rabbit seasons were open throughout January. Four squirrel hunters harvested a total of 11 squirrels. No rabbit hunting was reported in January.

Raccoon season was open throughout January, but no participation was noted.

Squirrel and rabbit seasons remained open until February 27. Rabbit hunting with dogs and a quail season were open February 13-27. A total of 109 rabbit hunters harvested 158 rabbits and ten squirrel hunters harvested 29 squirrels. No quail hunting was reported in February.

The Hillside dove season opened the first Saturday in September. Only a handful of people hunted the first morning. The main reason for low participation was the lack of doves. The dove field was in excellent condition with plenty of milo, corn, and millet planted in the field.

The 1999 fall archery season for deer was open October 1 through November 19. A total of 774 hunter visits were reported, with 22 does and 11 bucks harvested.

Squirrel and rabbit seasons were reopened October 16 through November 30 and December 12-31. A total of 293 squirrel hunters harvested 848 squirrels, with the majority (78%) harvested in October. Four rabbit hunter visits were reported with no rabbits harvested.

One raccoon hunter harvested two raccoons during November.

An early three day duck season opened November 26-28. Eighty hunter visits were reported with 179 ducks (143 mallards, 7 wood ducks, 23 gadwall, 2 wigeon, and 4 teal) harvested.

Duck season reopened December 12-22 and December 26-31. A total of 207 hunter visits were reported with 424 ducks (266 mallards, 23 wood ducks, 113 gadwall, 7 wigeon, 4 teal, 2 pintails, 1 northern shoveler, 1 black duck, and 7 unknown) harvested.

The 1999 Hillside muzzleloader season for deer was open December 1-11 and proved to be very busy with a total of 1,198 hunter visits reported. Several nice bucks were harvested again this year (Fig.'s 6 and 7). A total of 52 does and 46 bucks were harvested. (See Tables 5-7)

8. Hunting

The following game mammals may be hunted: white-tailed deer, feral hog, gray and fox squirrels, raccoon, opossum, and swamp and eastern cottontail rabbits. Valid permit holders may take additional furbearers in season incidental to other refuge hunts with weapons legal for that hunt. These include fox, bobcat, coyote, beaver, nutria, mink, skunk, and muskrat. Below are partial visitation and harvest data taken from self-clearing hunter information cards. Data are incomplete due to less than total compliance.

Waterfowl hunting was open throughout the month of January. Participation was nearly eleven times that of last January's waterfowl hunt due to both the season being extended until the 31st and a 1998 Field and Stream article featuring the refuge. A total of 109 hunter visits were reported with 178 ducks and one Canada goose harvested. Duck species harvested included mallard, gadwall, wood duck, green-winged teal, hooded merganser, and black duck.

Archery season for deer was open January 1-31. Fifty-three hunter visits were reported with five does and one buck harvested.

Squirrel and rabbit seasons were open throughout January. Eleven squirrel hunters harvested a total of ten squirrels. No rabbit hunting was reported in January.

Raccoon season was open throughout January with one hunter harvesting one raccoon.

Squirrel and rabbit seasons remained open until February 27. Rabbit hunting with dogs was open February 13-27. No squirrel or rabbit hunting was reported in February.

The 1999 fall archery season for deer was open October 1 through November 19 and December 12-31. A total of 241 hunter visits were reported, with 12 does and three bucks harvested (Fig. 5).

Squirrel and rabbit seasons were reopened October 16 through November 30 and December 12-31. A total of 70 squirrel hunters harvested 94 squirrels, with the majority (70%) harvested in October. No rabbit hunting was reported.

Two raccoon hunters harvested three raccoons during November.

An early three day duck season opened November 26-28. One hunter visit was reported with no ducks harvested.

Duck season reopened December 12-22 and December 26-31. A total of 23 hunter visits were reported with 52 ducks (23 mallards, 11 wood ducks, 12 gadwall, 3 wigeon, and 3 unknown) harvested.

The 1999 Morgan Brake muzzleloader season for deer was open December 1-11. A total of 249 hunter visits were reported with 10 does and 20 bucks harvested. (See Tables 3-5)

Mathews Brake 1999

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Hunting is permitted for the following game mammals: white-tailed deer, feral hog, gray and fox squirrels, raccoon, opossum, and swamp and eastern cottontail rabbits. Valid permit holders may take additional furbearers in season incidental to other refuge hunts with weapons legal for that hunt. These include fox, bobcat, coyote, beaver, nutria, mink, skunk, and muskrat.

Closed to all firearm deer hunts, Mathews Brake NWR has been described as a bowhunter's paradise. The archery-only deer season runs for 123 days, from October 1 through January 31.

Below are partial visitation and harvest data taken from self-clearing hunter information cards. Data are incomplete due to less than total compliance.

Waterfowl hunting was open throughout the month of January. Participation increased this year due to both the season being extended until the 31st and a 1998 Field and Stream article featuring the refuge. A total of 190 hunter visits were reported with 211 ducks harvested. Duck species harvested included mallard, gadwall, wood duck, American wigeon, green-winged teal, hooded merganser, and black duck.

Archery season for deer was open January 1-31. Forty-three hunter visits were reported with one eight point buck harvested.

Squirrel and rabbit seasons were open throughout January. One squirrel hunter harvested three squirrels. No rabbit hunting was reported in January.

Squirrel and rabbit seasons remained open until February 27. No squirrel or rabbit hunting was reported in February.

The 1999 fall archery season for deer was open October 1 through December 31. A total of 173 hunter visits were reported, with 3 does and a six point buck harvested.

Squirrel and rabbit seasons were reopened October 16 through November 30 and December 12-31. A total of 27 squirrel hunters harvested 53 squirrels, with the majority (92%) harvested in October. Three rabbit hunter visits were reported in December with no rabbits harvested.

Raccoon and opossum seasons were open in November and December. Three raccoon hunter visits were recorded with one raccoon harvested.

An early three day duck season opened November 26-28. Fifty-seven hunter visits were reported with 152 ducks (84 mallards, 10 wood ducks, 39 gadwall, 7 wigeon, 9 teal, and 3 unknown) harvested.

Duck season reopened December 12-22 and December 26-31. A total of 219 hunter visits were reported with 403 ducks (224 mallards, 26 wood ducks, 141 gadwall, 2 wigeon, 5 teal, 2 mergansers, 1 black duck, and 2 unknown) harvested.